



## **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**February 5, 2009 – 6:00 PM**

**Permit and Resource Management Department  
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa CA 95403**

### **MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Liz Acosta, Donna Roper, Chris Allen, Jan Kiely, Karen Famini, Priscilla Vivio, Mary Basham, Rebecca Hollingsworth

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Christina Brenner

**JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Kalene Morozumi; Julia Gass

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dell Jacoby

**I. CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF:**

Acosta called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

**II. CONSENT ITEMS:** The Agenda for February 5, 2009 was approved; Minutes from the January 8, 2009 Commission meeting were approved with minor revision. (Famini/Kiely)

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Phyllis Rosenfield and Ellen Bonaparte from Listening for a Change presented information on their current project, the Community Listening Circles. The concept of Community Circles was developed to allow citizens from all aspects of Sonoma County life to come together and share their experiences. The intent is to allow voices from non-dominant cultures in our county share how they experience Sonoma County. The five year project uses oral histories as the starting place for cross cultural understanding. The Commission is invited to facilitate one or more Conversation Circles of approximately 15 persons. Listening for a Change will also coordinate groups recommended to them by the Commission. These circles could provide a good format from which the commission can discuss issues specific to women and children.

**IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:**

Swearing in of New Commissioners: Mary Basham, representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, was sworn in. Mary has been dedicated to women's issues for many years. Mary is looking forward to serving with the Commission on issues relevant to women.

Appointments and Openings: Kiely reported that there is one vacancy in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District (1 opening), one vacancy in the 4<sup>th</sup> (1 opening), and two vacancies in the 5<sup>th</sup> (2 openings) Districts for 4 openings overall. When possible, Commissioners will distribute information about Commission openings.



## V. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:

### Announcements:

- Kiely reported that she will make a presentation to the Sonoma County chapter of AAUW in March. A mention of the presentation will be put in the monthly AAUW newsletter.
- Staff and Acosta introduced “National Wear Red” day in support of heart health. Hollingsworth brought forward the idea that the Commission sponsor a proclamation for the Wear Red Against Heart Disease effort next year. This year’s effort was supported by the California Commission on the Status of Women.

### Supervisor Communication Updates:

- Hollingsworth spoke with Shirlee Zane, Supervisor for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, who recommended the EMERGE Program, training for women interested in running for political office; Zane also reiterated her support of the Commission and its work.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS:

**National Women’s History Partnership:** Hollingsworth updated the Commission on changes to the partnership with National Women’s History Project. It had been previously agreed that the Commission would partner with NWHP on the presentation of the play A Sense of Wonder and that Commissioner Hollingsworth would serve as Chair of the Steering Committee of the NWHP for this effort and that the Commission would receive its \$1,000 donation back and share in any profits of the production. Due to compelling personal reasons, Hollingsworth has had to withdraw as Chair of the Steering Committee. This change has resulted in NWHP withdrawing its offer to return the sponsorship funds to be donated by the Commission and any profit sharing that may have occurred after funds had been used to cover presentation costs. The new proposal includes \$1,000 sponsorship, acknowledgement on all publications, acknowledgement in the NWHP newsletter, 2 tickets to reception, 2 tickets to the program, a vendor table, and acknowledgement at the reception. Famini wondered whether the benefit will outweigh the price of sponsorship. Hollingsworth believes the sponsorship will benefit the Commission. Acosta wondered how successful fundraising has been up to this point. Hollingsworth felt fund raising was going well. **Action Taken:** Motion that the Commission rescind its motion to work in partnership with the National Women’s History Project to produce and present the play A Sense of Wonder, sponsoring at \$1,000 taking an active role in the steering committee and receiving back the \$1,000 sponsorship and 25% of all proceeds after expenses. A new motion was put forward to sponsor the project A Sense of Wonder at \$1,000, receiving acknowledgement in all publications, mention on the NWHP website as a sponsor, 2 tickets to the reception and 2 tickets to the play and acknowledgement at the reception (Roper/Famini.)

## VII. NEW BUSINESS:

**Letter of Participation request to UASA:** Hollingsworth reported on a request from United Against Sexual Assault to participate in the End Violence Against and Abuse of Women Later in Life program grant to be submitted to the Office of Violence Against Women. As the letter of participation is intended for service providers, and as the Commission is not a direct service provider, the Commission could not forward the letter

as requested. The Commission requests staff to follow up with UASA and to forward the request to the Representation and Legislation committee.

Website as a Resource: Acosta discussed the idea of sending project media, announcements and other information relevant to committee or Commission work to our website. Staff is able to upload small documents and some graphics to the site, but not lengthy or complicated materials. Staff must guide Commissioners in the appropriateness of the material in relation to County policy and may not be able to accommodate all requests. At least one week must be allowed to get information vetted and uploaded. Early discussion with staff is encouraged.

## **VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Junior Commission (Famini): Famini reported that the Junior Commission meetings are going well. Gass and Morozumi reported that focus groups are going well and that some Jr. Commissioners are using Face Book for their focus group formats, which is quite successful so far. They also reported that Vivio and Harris-Bloom went to the Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C.
- Women's History Month Coordinator (Hollingsworth/Vivio): Hollingsworth reported that the curriculum packet for WHM will be sent to Sonoma County Office of Education on February 16. She will present at Sonoma Day School to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Famini will present to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Steele Lane Elementary. Other schools will be contacted and Commissioners will report back to staff on location, date and number of served for each presentation.

Kaiser Santa Rosa requests a speaker on March 11 at noon to discuss Women's History Month. Hollingsworth will present. Staff to confirm with Kaiser and give Hollingsworth contact info to Kaiser.

- Self-Sufficiency Calculator (Renee): This project is on hold. Staff will contact Insight, the company hosting the Calculator to confirm prices, which were previously reported as \$3,000 per county plus training costs.
- Organization Liaisons
  - South County (TBD): Acosta reported that currently we do not have consistent liaison with women's organizations in north and south county. Staff and Officers will place this issue on the Agenda for the March meeting.
  - North County (TBD): No report.
  - ACCW (Association of California Commissions on Women) Liaison (Acosta): Commission has been added to ACCW mailing list and will be notified of events and issues of importance.
  - Family Violence Prevention Council Liaison (Boyd): Boyd reported that the next meeting of the full Council will be held on February 6; upcoming projects will be determined at that time.
  - Community Issues Liaison (formerly Human Trafficking) (Brenner): Hollingsworth reported that she had had contact from a local company who wish to make a video

focusing on Human Trafficking and the Commission's Report on the Status of Women in Sonoma County. She asks that the Commission participate. Acosta questioned whether this would more appropriately be a project for the collaborative group already addressing Human Trafficking and whether the effort was duplicative. Acosta requested additional information on the project and encouraged Brenner, as Liaison, to attend on behalf of the larger group addressing Human Trafficking. Hollingsworth will contact Brenner and arrange a meeting with the producer. Both will report back to the Commission in March.

- Non-Traditional Career Exploration Liaison (Brenner): Brenner reported that she continues to participate in the Sonoma County K-12 Career Development Project. She has attended a Career Development Systems meeting; recruited members of the community for the Career Development Steering Committee; submitted proclamation requests in Sonoma, Petaluma, Healdsburg, Cloverdale, Windsor, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol and Cotati to have February proclaimed "Career and Technical Education Month" in these cities.
- Representation and Legislation Task Force (Acosta/Roper): Roper reported that the 2009 Legislative agenda should be available soon. This group will identify 3-4 issues to discuss with our Supervisors. Regular meeting date/time for this committee is 5:00 PM on Commission meeting nights. They meet in the conference room at La Plaza (Commissions Office.)
- Older Women's Issues Task Force (Allen/Kiely): Kiely reported that she and Allen are interested in the Listening for a Change Community Circles project and hope to set up circles to discuss issues pertinent to older women. Kiely also reported she has been appointed to the Advisory Council to the Area Agency on Aging and hopes to build strong connections to other community efforts.
- Speakers Series Task Force (Brenner): Brenner will review the work plan and report to the Commission the status of this project. Recently, the Series has hosted the Human Trafficking panel in July of 2008, presented to the AAUW and the NOW Organization and have been guests on Sonoma County Today twice this fiscal year.
- Recruitment Task Force (Acosta): No report Staff to forward contact for SSU Community Service Office.

## **IX. STAFF REPORT:**

Correspondence: Staff outlined the Wear Red project sponsored by the California Commission on the Status of Women.

Attendance Report Distribution: Staff distributed the attendance report to Commissioners.

Update on Staff Activities: Staff updated the Commission on current budget planning for the Human Resources Department and the Commissions. Budget hearings for 2009-10 will be early this year, date to be determined.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:** Acosta adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.